



Pacific Fishery Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220-1384
Phone 503-820-2280 | Toll free 866-806-7204 | Fax 503-820-2299 | www.pcouncil.org
Philip Anderson, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 20, 2020

TO: Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel

FROM: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: April 2020 Council Meeting

The meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory entities was originally planned to be held in person in Vancouver, Washington, but due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, the format of the meetings have been changed to be conducted only by webinars. All meetings are open to the public. For Advisory Bodies, there will be one daily opportunity for public comment.

Instructions for how to connect to Advisory Body webinars will be posted on the Council's [April 2020 Meeting webpage](#) prior to the first day of the meeting. It is recommended that you use a computer headset to listen to the meeting, but you may use your telephone for the audio-only portion of the meeting. The audio portion may be attended using a telephone by following the connect to audio instructions on your screen, shown after joining the webinar.

Please note that the evolving public health situation regarding COVID-19 may further affect the conduct of the April Council and advisory body meetings. Pacific Council staff will monitor COVID-19 developments and will determine if there is a need for additional measures. If such measures are deemed necessary, Council staff will post notice of them prominently on our website (www.pcouncil.org). Potential meeting participants are encouraged to check the Pacific Council's website frequently for such information and updates.

The only coastal pelagic species agenda item remaining on the April Council meeting agenda is the Pacific sardine stock assessment, harvest specifications, and management measures (D.3). The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) will also discuss other items not on the Council's April agenda. See below:

Pacific Sardine Assessment, Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures – Final Action (D.3)

The National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center completed a benchmark stock assessment of the Pacific sardine off the United States, which indicates a biomass estimate below the Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST) of 50,000 mt, a value that corresponds with the overfished threshold. If the final biomass estimate remains below the MSST, the Council

will need to initiate discussion of a rebuilding plan and consideration of other management measures (e.g., directed fishing, live bait, and incidental allowances) that may impact the CPS fishery. The CPSAS and CPSMT should be prepared to make recommendations on incidental and live bait harvest for the 2020 – 2021 fishing year.

Stock Assessment Terms of Reference (ToR)

The Council and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) considered a revised ToR at the March meeting, with final approval scheduled for the June 2020 meeting. The CPSMT and CPSAS should review the draft ToR (to be emailed separately) and be prepared to write reports for the advanced June 2020 Briefing Book. There will be an additional opportunity for review and comment on and April 21st webinar scheduled specifically to consider this topic. Access information will be posted to the Council's website in advance.

Enclosed are April agenda materials for your review. Thank you for your continued participation in the Council process and for your part in maintaining sustainable fisheries on the U.S. West Coast.

KFG:rdd

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – April Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item E.3 – Pacific Sardine Assessment, Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures – Final Action
3. Informational Reports
4. Agenda Item I.4 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
5. CPSMT Agenda
6. CPSAS Agenda
7. Council Roster

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 20, 2020

TO: Enforcement Consultants

FROM: Jim Seger Staff Officer

SUBJECT: April 2020 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet April 4-10, 2020, via webinar. The meeting of the Council and its advisory entities was originally planned to be held in person in Vancouver, Washington, but due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, the format of the meetings have been changed to be conducted only by webinars. All meetings are open to the public. For Advisory Bodies, there will be one daily opportunity for public comment.

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Please note that the evolving public health situation regarding **COVID-19** may further affect the conduct of the April Council and advisory body meetings. Council staff will monitor COVID-19 developments and will determine if there is a need for additional measures. If such measures are deemed necessary, Council staff will post notice of them prominently on our website (www.pcouncil.org). Potential meeting participants are encouraged to check the Council's website frequently for such information and updates.

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) will meet Sunday April 5 through Thursday April 9. Its main session will occur Tuesday, April 7 starting at 8 a.m. Other sessions may be scheduled during that period, as needed, and the times for those sessions will be posted on the Council's April meeting website.

Enclosed are materials for items on the EC Agenda and additional items that might be of interest to you. Your agenda allows you to add other items from the Council agenda, if you should decide there are other issues on which you would like to comment.

JLS:ael

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4, Proposed Council Meeting Agenda
2. EC Agenda
3. CPSMT Agenda
4. CPSAS Agenda
5. GAP Agenda
6. GEMPAC/TAC Agenda
7. GMT Agenda
8. SAS Agenda
9. STT Agenda

Salmon Management

10. E.1 Tentative Adoption of 2020 Management Measures for Analysis
11. E.7 Further Direction on 2020 Management Measures
12. E.8 Fishery Management Plan Amendment 20
13. E.9 2020 Management Measures - Final Action

Groundfish Management

14. G.5 Electronic Monitoring Program Review
15. G.6 Preliminary Preferred Management Measure Alternatives for 2021-2022 Fisheries
16. G.8 Inseason Adjustments – Final Action

Pacific Halibut Management

17. H.1 Incidental Catch Limits for 2020 Salmon Troll Fishery – Final Action

Administrative Matters

18. I.4 Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

Informational Reports

19. Information Report 1: Annual U.S. Coast Guard Fishery Enforcement Report

General Information

20. Council Roster



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 20, 2020

TO: Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, Groundfish Management Team, and Groundfish Interested Persons

FROM: Mr. Brett Wiedoff, Groundfish Staff Officer

SUBJECT: April 2020 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet via Webinar April 5-9, 2020. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) meetings will begin at 8 a.m. on Sunday, April 5.

The meeting of the Council and its advisory entities was originally planned to be held in person in Vancouver, Washington, but due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, the format of the meetings have been changed to be conducted only by webinars. All meetings are open to the public. For Advisory Bodies, there will be one daily opportunity for public comment.

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The Council is scheduled to consider several important groundfish agenda items and related matters of interest. The briefing book materials attached to this memorandum provide detailed information for these items on the Council's April Agenda; however, the following agenda items, summarized below, may be of particular interest.

G.3 Implementation of the 2020 Pacific Whiting Fishery Under the U.S./Canada Agreement

A new stock assessment for Pacific whiting has been conducted and endorsed by the Scientific Review Group in the U.S./Canada Pacific Whiting Treaty Process. The Joint Management Committee (JMC) met March 11-13 to formalize their recommendations on the 2020 coastwide total allowable catch for Pacific whiting and could not come to an agreement. The Council will consider the necessary actions to implement the 2020 Pacific whiting fishery.

G.4 Biennial Harvest Specifications for 2021-2022 Fisheries – Final Action

In September and November 2019, the Council adopted preliminary preferred and alternative 2021 and 2022 harvest specifications, and annual catch limits for the actively-managed groundfish stocks and stock complexes. The Council is scheduled to adopt final preferred alternatives 2021 and 2022 harvest specifications for groundfish stocks and stock complexes.

G.5 Electronic Monitoring Program Review

The Council is scheduled to review the electronic monitoring (EM) Program status, consider possible changes to the final rule, review EM exempted fishing permits (EFPs) if they are submitted, and consider an extension of the EM EFPs.

G.6 Preliminary Preferred Management Measure Alternatives for 2021-2022 Fisheries

The Council is scheduled to select their preliminary preferred management measures alternatives for 2021-2022 fisheries. These measures include a suite of management measures, including such items as adjustments to trip limits, Rockfish Conservation Area boundary updates, and allocations.

G.8 Inseason Adjustments – Final Action

This agenda item will consider progress to date of the groundfish fisheries as well as routine inseason adjustments to the 2020 fisheries, as necessary, to achieve conservation objectives. Issuance of prior year surplus carryover quota pounds into the 2020 shorebased individual fishing quota program was not completed; therefore, it will be addressed in the future.

This mailing includes the enclosures listed below. Please review these briefing materials in advance to facilitate an efficient meeting week. As always, all briefing materials are also available on the web at <http://www.pcouncil.org>.

Thank you for your commitment to the Council process and management of Pacific groundfish fisheries.

BLW:rdd

Enclosures include:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B – Open Comment Period
3. Agenda Item H – Groundfish Management
4. Enforcement Consultants Agenda
5. GAP Agenda
6. GMT Agenda
7. Scientific and Statistical Committee Agenda and Draft Minutes
8. Informational Reports
9. Council Roster

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 20, 2020
TO: Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team, Model Evaluation Workgroup, and Interested Persons
FROM: Robin Ehlke, Staff Officer
SUBJECT: April Council Meeting

The meeting of the Council and its advisory entities was originally planned to be held in person in Vancouver, Washington, but due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, the format of the meetings have been changed to be conducted only by webinars. All meetings are open to the public. For Advisory Bodies, there will be one daily opportunity for public comment.

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In conjunction with the April Council meeting, the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) and Salmon Technical Team (STT), will meet on Saturday, April 4, 2020 beginning at 8 a.m. The meetings will be held via webinar in conjunction with the April Council meeting also held via webinar. The Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) will not meet at the April Council meeting, but may plan for a webinar in May 2020.

The Council will start the salmon agenda (Agenda Item E) on Sunday, April 5 and continue through Thursday April 9. Incidental catch of Pacific halibut in the troll fishery will be finalized on Wednesday, April 8 (Agenda Item H).

The main salmon issue before the Council will be adopting final management measure recommendations for 2020 ocean fisheries (Agenda Items E.1, E.4, E.7, and E.9). Under Agenda Item E.3, the Council will consider a Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho Endangered Species Act consultation process.

Pacific halibut is on the Council's agenda for Wednesday, April 8. Under Agenda Item H.1, the SAS will need to recommend landing restrictions for the 2020 troll salmon fisheries to allow for incidental halibut harvest.

The STT chair will join the SAS meeting at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 4 and respond to technical questions regarding the 2020 fishery alternatives as presented in Preseason Report II. The SAS should have its preliminary management measures (Agenda Item E.1) completed in time to allow processing. The STT would like final input from the SAS as soon as possible, but no later than 9 a.m. Sunday morning. Please work with the Council staff to coordinate your efforts.

Additionally, on Friday April 10 the Council will discuss future Council meeting agendas and workload under Agenda Item I.4.

Please take some time and review your briefing materials thoroughly before the meeting. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. This meeting will be a challenge for all of us as we use a webinar platform to conduct a Council meeting for the first time, so please be patient and flexible. It is recommended that that you 'test' your accessibility to the 'Ring Central' webinar platform from your computer days prior to the start of the meeting so we can troubleshoot any issues beforehand.

Thank you for your assistance in the Council's salmon management process.

RDE:ael

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Agenda
2. Agenda Item E.1 through E.9 – Salmon Management
3. Agenda Items H.1 – Pacific Halibut Management
4. Agenda Item I. 4 – Council Administrative Matters
5. Proposed SAS Agenda
6. Proposed STT Agenda
7. Council Roster

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 20, 2020

TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee

FROM: John DeVore, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: April 2020 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet April 4-9, 2020 via webinar. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet on Saturday, April 4, starting at 8 a.m. Your meeting materials are enclosed.

The meeting of the Council and its advisory entities was originally planned to be held in person in Vancouver, Washington, but due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, the format of the meetings have been changed to be conducted only by webinars. All meetings are open to the public. For Advisory Bodies, there will be one daily opportunity for public comment.

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Council Administrative Matters

The SSC will discuss future workload planning and may report to the Council on their plans under Agenda Item I.4.

The SSC will continue planning and development of a new Research and Data Needs database.

Coastal Pelagic Species Management

The SSC will review the new full assessment of Pacific sardine, as well as the report of the February Stock Assessment Review Panel review of the assessment, and provide their recommendations to the Council on the use of the new assessment for management decision-making. The SSC will also recommend an overfishing limit for Pacific sardine for the 2020-2021 fishery.

Thank you all for your dedication to West Coast fishery management and the Council process.

JDD:rdd

Enclosures include:

Council and SSC Administrative Matters

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item I.4 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

Coastal Pelagic Species Management

3. Agenda Item D.3 – Pacific Sardine Assessment, Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures – Final Action

SSC Agenda, Draft SSC Minutes, Closed Session, Etc.

4. April 2020 SSC Agenda
5. Draft March 2020 SSC Minutes
6. Informational Reports
7. Council Roster

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